

Application No. 10/087,592.

REMARKS

Claims 12-15 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 3-7 are canceled and new claims 12-15 are added, claims 1-2 and 8-11 having been withdrawn from consideration due to a restriction requirement.

Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

In response to the 22 March 2004 Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, Applicants resubmit the Amendment filed 3 March 2004, but with a complete listing of all claims. Other than listing the claims withdrawn from consideration and canceled, the substantive portions of the 3 March 2004 are resubmitted for consideration.

Election/Restrictions

Applicants acknowledge that the restriction was made final, but maintain the traversal for reasons stated.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 5,161,422 (Suman et al.). Claims 3, 4, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 10-16594 (Nakumura). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nakumura in view of JP 10-0591332 (Horibe). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Nonetheless, Applicants submit that the pending claims are patentable over the foregoing disclosures.

The feature of the invention is that the knob is tiltable and selectively located at selected positions that correspond to engage states of the transmission. A part of the knob protrudes from the case. The knob has a central hole located at a center thereof that corresponds a palm of a driver and a plurality of holes located around the central holes that correspond fingers of the driver.

Suman et al. disclose an electrical transmission control that has a casing 32 and a dome-shaped knob 34. However, Suman et al. fail to disclose the claimed feature.

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Nakumura discloses an automatic transmission operational device that has a casing 11, a dome-shaped knob 14, and push buttons 16, 17. However, Nakumura fails to disclose the claimed feature.

Horibe et al. discloses a shift lever device that has a shift lever and a parking detection sensor 8. The sensor 8 detects that the shift lever is located at a parking position. However, Horibe et al. fail to disclose the claimed feature.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited documents and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the foregoing rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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